

**VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**

*Annual Meeting*

**Monday, October 5, 2020**

**ZOOM/CALL-IN MEETING**

**Learning Resource Center – Innovation Room #112**

**130 E. College Avenue**

**Vincennes, IN 47591**

**Members Present:**

John Stachura, Chair  
Darrel Bobe (Zoom)  
Kelly Clauss (Zoom)  
J.R. Gaylor (Zoom)  
Tim Grove (Zoom)  
Reggie Henderson (Zoom)  
Chuck Johnson, President  
Conner McKinney, Student Trustee  
Greg Parsley (Zoom)  
Rick Schach (Zoom)  
Mike Sievers  
Don Villwock

**Others Present:**

Brent Stuckey, Attorney for the Board  
Nancy Irwin, Record Clerk for the Board  
Tony Hahn, Vice President for Government Relations (Zoom)  
Laura Treanor, Provost  
Dave Tucker, Vice President for Workforce Development/  
Community Services (Zoom)  
Linda Waldroup, Vice President for Financial Services

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair John Stachura called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (EDT) in the Innovation Room #112 in the Learning Resource Center in Vincennes, Indiana.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW TRUSTEES**

University Attorney, Brent Stuckey, administered the following Oath to Serve as Trustee to new Student Trustee, Conner McKinney.

**OATH TO SERVE AS TRUSTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FOR THE VINCENNES UNIVERSITY**

STATE OF INDIANA    )            ) SS:  
COUNTY OF KNOX    )

I, Conner McKinney, being duly sworn upon my oath say that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Indiana, and that I will honestly and faithfully discharge my duties as a member of the Board of Trustees for The Vincennes University to the best of my skill and ability. So help me God.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Conner McKinney

Subscribed and sworn before me, a Notary Public for Knox County, Indiana, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

My Commission expires:  
5/27/2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Stuckey, Notary Public  
residing in Knox County, Indiana

**ROLL CALL/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Nancy Irwin called the roll. A quorum was declared with 12 Trustees present. The agenda was approved by consensus of the Board.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the 8-26-20 Regular Session had been distributed. With no questions from the Board, Trustee Mike Sievers made a motion to approve and Trustee Don Villwock seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and there were 12 yeas and 0 nays, with the minutes passing unanimously.

## **PERSONNEL & NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

### **Election of Board Chair**

Committee Chair Rick Schach reported that the Personnel & Nominating Committee had met and brought forth a recommendation to re-elect John Stachura as Chair for the Board of Trustees for another year.

### **MOTION # 20-28**

Committee Chair Schach made the motion and Trustee Mike Sievers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 11 yeas and 0 nays, with Chair Stachura abstaining from the vote.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chair Stachura expressed his appreciation to everyone for their faith and recommendation to elect him as Chair for the Board for another year. He also reaffirmed his mission, along with all Board members, that Vincennes University continue to move forward in a positive manner and to take no steps backward. The Chair also complimented all the good work accomplished by the former Chair, J.R. Gaylor, and congratulated him, along with Trustee Rick Schach and Trustee Don Villwock on being reappointed for another term. The Chair also congratulated new Student Trustee, Conner McKinney, and looks forward to working with him in the coming year. Chair Stachura extended his praise and appreciation to President Johnson, the administrative team, committees, faculty and staff on the tremendous job that has been done regarding all the changes and preparations surrounding COVID-19. He also appreciated the President staying the course on the suspensions that have taken place, and hopes it was a learning experience for those involved. Chair Stachura also applauded all the faculty and the Faculty Senate for their discussions regarding Vincennes University's commitment to diversity and inclusion, and he expressed appreciation to Provost Treanor for taking the lead in bringing the session by Dr. Shaun Harper to the University. The Chair also acknowledged the great feedback he has received from individuals in Dubois County regarding Dean Christian Blome and all the great work he is doing in that area and at VU-Jasper. He also reported that Phase 2 of the French Quarter Student Housing project is up and running, as well as the construction for the new electrical infrastructure project. Chair Stachura also expressed his appreciation to Mike Gress, Dale Pietrzak, Chad Bebee, Carmen Ridgway, Jennifer Holscher, Jonathan Williams, and Ryne Hamm for all their hard work preparing for the recent HLC visit.

## **REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP**

### **Recruitment/Enrollment Report**

Sarah Fortune, Senior Director of External Relations, reported system-wide enrollment has held fairly steady when comparing 2019-2020, and the University has experienced only a 4% decrease. On average, community colleges are experiencing a 10% - 30% decrease in 2020. Ms. Fortune also noted there has been a 3% increase in Hispanic students, and noted that student retention is going very well and credited VU's faculty and staff for going above and beyond to ensure each student is connected with the resources and support needed to be successful. She also reported that the University is currently engaged with an Admissions consultant from the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) to enhance multicultural recruitment and recruitment efforts in a COVID-19 environment. Ms. Fortune shared applications for the 2021 spring and fall semesters are coming in strong. Updates were also shared in the areas of Admissions structure, Virtual StartVU, Social media campaigns, website, and COVID-19 communications.

### **Update on the VU Foundation/Fundraising Efforts**

Kristi Deetz, Executive Director of VU Foundation and Senior Director of Institutional Advancement and Leslie Kidwell, Director of Development, shared a report of the VU Foundation and fundraising efforts taking place. Their report focused on five key areas: Donors and Gifts / "Fund"-amentals / Priorities / Engagement Plan / Looking Forward. Ms. Deetz and Ms. Kidwell announced the Foundation experienced several areas of growth during the 2020 fiscal year. It established 16 new funds, including 11 new scholarships. The average gift size per donor increased, the average gift by foundations doubled, and the overall number of individual donors went up as well. Other areas reported on were Developing the Pyramid of Donors, Keys to Sustainable Fundraising, Keeping the Focus on Institutional Priorities, and Donor Engagement. Ms. Kidwell announced their very first day of giving, *BLAZERS GIVE*, will take place on Thursday, April 8, 2021. Ms. Deetz also proudly announced the return of *Columns: The Foundation and Alumni Magazine of Vincennes University*. The publication shares stories demonstrating the Trailblazer spirit, introduces members of the VU community, and reveals the growth of VU. Ms. Deetz also acknowledged a long-standing employee of the Foundation, Cathy McClelland, and thanked her for her 39 years of service to the University and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement. Chair Stachura praised the new edition of the *Columns* magazine and applauded all the contributors that made it such an excellent publication. Trustee Don Villwock echoed Chair Stachura's praise of the *Columns* magazine and expressed appreciation to all who

contributed. Trustee Villwock also asked Leslie Kidwell if there were any plans for a matching campaign in regards to donations. Ms. Kidwell responded that matching gifts are part of their plan, especially for the *BLAZERS GIVE* campaign, and they are looking at some options of how that could be implemented. Chair Stachura asked Kristi to introduce the officers of the Foundation Board of Directors. Gregg Sturm – Chair / Chris Ernst – Vice Chair / Secretary – Pat Carter / Treasurer – Linda Waldroup / Other members of the Executive Committee are Bernie Niehaus, Brent Stuckey, and President Chuck Johnson.

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

- The President congratulated and welcomed Conner McKinney as the new Student Trustee, and also offered his congratulations and appreciation to Chair Stachura, J.R. Gaylor, Rick Schach, and Don Villwock for their re-appointments to the Board.
- President Johnson thanked Sarah Fortune, Kristi Deetz, and Leslie Kidwell for their presentations and expressed appreciation for all their work in their respective areas. He also shared that Leslie's former mentor, Gene Tempel from the IU School of Philanthropy, was a former instructor of English at VU, and was early director of the Jasper Campus.
- A welcome was extended to the members of the VU Foundation Board who joined the meeting today, via Zoom.
- The President reported we currently have a relatively small number of COVID cases to date. The largest number of cases have been among our commuting students. While there have been cases among residential students, they are not as numerous as those by the commuting students.
- Much work has been done by VU's contact tracing team, which is led by VP Tony Hahn and Deborah Bedwell, Director of the University Primary Care Clinic, with tremendous help also by Regina McCord Fithian, Adam Daugherty, Cindy Beaman, Nick Bauer, and many other volunteers.
- Two students were suspended from the Vincennes campus for the remainder of the semester for violating their quarantine, and the President expressed appreciation to the Board for the support of that process and decision.
- The move to virtual instruction will begin after Thanksgiving and the fall semester will finish in a virtual fashion. The 2-day fall break has been moved to the Monday & Tuesday following Thanksgiving. Spring break has been moved up to January. Start of the spring semester will be January 19<sup>th</sup>, which will be a virtual start, with a plan to resume face-to-face and hybrid instruction on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The President thanked Provost Treanor, deans, department chairs, and faculty for all their hard work in adapting to all these changes.
- The Higher Learning Commission conducted their campus visit last week and positive feedback was extended regarding the visit. The President also expressed appreciation for the entire Institutional Effectiveness & Research team, and stated what an incredible debt of gratitude the institution has for Mike Gress and the wonderful work he has done for Vincennes University. There is hopeful expectation that the HLC Board will give us their final report in February, 2021.
- VU has received a \$2.5 million grant from the Lilly Endowment which will fund programs to help strengthen work-based learning partnerships and programs; launch the Techmester program that will bring career and technical education (CTE) students to attend classes on the Vincennes campus; and fund a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) academy that will expose underrepresented populations to careers and education in STEM fields.
- The institution was also notified that we are among a handful of programs that were selected for additional consideration for up to \$10 million dollars through a transformational grant that Lilly is looking to award. Through a partnership with Albert Chen and his team at Telamon, 3 Cobots (collaborative robots) will be installed at our Lebanon facility and this program could benefit greatly from this additional funding. VU continues to work with Scott Jones at the Eleven Fifty Academy, our partner on the Cyber Security coding program, and is another program that could benefit from this funding, in relation to coding with the Cobots in mind.
- Work continues to be done regarding the GEER grant, which is a \$1.5 million grant through the CARES Act. VP Hahn and Grant Specialist, Stephanie Stemle were very instrumental in obtaining this grant for VU. We hope to widen the net of CTE education, as well as ensure continuity of instruction should we face another situation in which face-to-face instruction has to be halted.
- A virtual pinning ceremony for our Licensed Practical Nursing students took place on Saturday, thanks to Pam Gardner and other faculty members organizing the event.
- Amazon has asked us to double the number of apprentices we are developing, and the President shared the following quote from Jeff Yarborough, Senior Manager of Workforce Development, Reliability & Maintenance Engineering: *"Vincennes University has been an instrumental partner in the Amazon RME mechatronics and robotics apprenticeship program. VU has been quick and nimble in launching. Despite COVID related challenges, they've launched 173 apprentices since May 2020, and those students have successfully completed 290 PMMI Certifications year to date. They are more than a school teaching our apprentices, they are a business partner who helps us remain day one."* The President thanked Dave Tucker, Jerry Ruble and their entire team for all the quality work they have done to help VU get to a place where we are a leader in the country in this area.

- The President shared news of VU's new partnership with Purdue University's Cyber Apprenticeship Program (P-CAP) that is providing a pathway to at least 5,000 students by 2023. VU is the only university providing the opportunity to earn stackable degree programs at the one-year or two-year degree programs level. The University is offering two online associate degree programs and an online cybersecurity certificate for students registered in the innovative apprenticeship program. President Johnson extended his thanks and appreciation to Jaci Lederman, Rick Kribs, Dave Tucker, Shanni Simmons and many other for all their hard work in this partnership.
- A Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council has been created, in which members of the council will work together to better understand how VU's culture, policies, and processes may be contributing to challenges faced by students, faculty, and staff of various backgrounds. It will also identify approaches to help ensure that the University is an institution where everyone has a genuine opportunity to succeed in achieving their goals.
- The President will present a budget request for the next biennium to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education on Thursday.
- Rad Wang was acknowledged for his continuing efforts and initiatives in international student recruitment for VU. He recently expanded the University's reach by completing an articulation agreement with Arizona State University, creating another pathway for VU's international students. Rad has also been working with Shanni Simmons and others to develop an online cohort program for students who would like to start their education at Vincennes University but are not able to be here physically.
- December commencement will now be a virtual ceremony on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Albert Chen, Honorary Doctorate recipient, will be coming to campus to record his ceremony, which will be part of the December 12<sup>th</sup> virtual commencement ceremony.
- The President concluded his remarks by reiterating how proud he is of the people that make up Vincennes University and how hard they have worked during this very challenging year.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the Regular Session adjourned at 11:05 a.m. (EDT).

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J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

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John Stachura, Chair